

## **MINUTES OF KINVER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023 AT 95 HIGH STREET, KINVER**

PRESENT: Councillors JK Hall (Chairman), Mrs C Allen (Vice Chairman), P Wooddisse, S Charlesworth-Jones, Mrs S Harris, K Hosell, D Light, IG Sadler, Ms E Lord, G Sisley, H Williams, S Anderson, K Slade, and County Councillor Mrs V Wilson.

Also present: Mrs J Cree – Clerk and Mrs M Fullwood – Assistant Clerk, Mrs B Owen.

63/23. Apologies for Absence.

Councillors D McGirr and E Simons sent their apologies.

64/23. Declarations of Councillors' Interest.

None were declared.

65/23. To receive for confirmation and adoption, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The minutes of the meetings held on the above date, were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

66/23. To receive a report from the PCSO's relating to Kinver

PCSO L Mason ran through the crime statistics for the area since the last meeting. He reported he is covering PCSO Millichap whilst he is on long term leave.

67/23. Public Participation

Standing orders were raised to enable members of the public to speak.

Mrs B Owen addressed the council on the following items:-

- Bus service – this is running relatively well, but does keep breaking down. The bus company seem to be allocating old busses to this route.
- Police consultation 2-3 pm in March, she attended and she was the only person there. The PCSO came at 2.30pm, following an incident. There seems to be not enough done to publicise the event. Perhaps a regular time say prior to a Parish Meeting would be beneficial.
- She uses the bus shelter on the A449, once a week and in her opinion it probably does not need to be replaced as she in 12 months has never seen anyone using this stop bar herself.

Dr Richard Painter stated that it the police clinics are on Smart Alert and the information came out in advance at Wombourne. The 242 bus service does seem to be using older bus, and there has been a non-injury accident when the bus had to stop suddenly, this was due to children standing on the bus and not being able to reach the hand holds, he felt the Parish Council should be aware of this.

Standing orders were reinstated.

68/23. To receive an update on the Community use agreement and make any decisions as required including correspondence re use of the lecture theatre.

The agreement has been signed by the Chairman, as clarification from the school re staff managing to operate the site whilst recruitment is taking place.

The Clerk has sent a follow up email which has been sent to the school via Lucy Duffey for confirmation on the Management Committee structure. The Clerk will chase up on the schools return from the Easter break on the 18<sup>th</sup> April. The Management Committee must be in place within 3 months after signing the document, which was signed on the 8<sup>th</sup> March by the Parish Council, the Clerk to remind Lucy Duffey of this.

69/23. To discuss the Church Wall at St Peters

The Chairman reported that a meeting has taken place at the Church, with Church representatives, SSDC staff, the Chairman, SSDC Councillor and the Church Architect / Surveyor. They looked at the church wall, and they are going back to the Diocese with a framework for a faculty of what work needs to actually be completed.

SSDC can not do much at the moment due to Purdah and also they are waiting for the information above.

This discussion will continue following the new District Councillors being elected.

The alternate funding option is being looked at and hopefully it wont be funded by Council tax of Kinver residents. It will take 3 months minimum for the church to come back with detailed estimated for the work required to the wall and then a faculty applied for . It was noted that faculties are taking approx.. 18 months to come through at the moment.

Councillor Mrs V Wilson thanked the Chairman and SSDC Cllr G Sisley for their efforts trying to resolve this issue and fight for the people of Kinver.

70/23. To discuss the Parish Council Climate Action Group update

Cllr Ms E Lord reported that at the last meeting a terms of reference were put together for the group, which is a required element. They have been looking at Community buildings assessing improving them to see if this is worth while. If they decide some of the buildings are worthy then grants can be applied for to improve them.

When the group spoke to SSDC and suggested they join a group to use their carbon tracker tool. It gives you a comparison of before and after any improvements are worked allowing data to be collated to show improvements.

It was agreed by the group members that they should put on an energy event in Autumn / early October. They have made a provisional booking at the KSCA on the 1<sup>st</sup> October.

The library was also looked at last week, due to the design and age of the building they are limited on what can be done to improve, but an option is fans to push the warm air back down towards the ground.

A policy may be required in the future, using the carbon tracker may be a useful start for this.

71/23. To receive an update on the Kings Coronation event

Following a look at alternate options, the original agreed idea is going ahead. A road closure will be in place, with a market from 12pm – 5pm. With street entertainment, music, street food, and of course the market.

Delays have taken place due to discussions with the traders and the publicity is going live now.

The event is very much high street based from the Acre car park to the island on Stone Lane.

Additional parking may be available at the school this to be confirmed. The promotional information is on large boards and flyers for office windows.

Extra bins have been ordered from SSDC to be put out in the High Street.

The Police have been insistent that unless a road closure was in place then they would not allow the event to happen in the form proposed. Cllr S Anderson was asked to request in writing that the event could not go ahead without a full road closure.

72/23. To discuss correspondence received re registering births and Deaths for South Staffordshire residents.

Cllr Mrs C Allen reported that she spoke directly to the complainant on this subject.

Correspondence has been received from a resident that had to travel to Cannock to register a death, it was also during the period of very bad weather we had recently.

It was noted that a death can be registered at any local office, it does not have to be in South Staffordshire, it will though, delay getting the paperwork.

Members expressed their concerns that during Covid it was OK to have this process done via the telephone, so why could this not carry on?

The complainant has sent the following information which was circulated:-

Further to our recent conversation about registering a death etc., in the Siesdon peninsular.

### **APPOINTMENT OFFERED AT**

When I booked the appointment in March to register my mother's death I was offered an appointment in the following locations:

Burton, Newcastle, Stafford, Lichfield or Cannock, all of which offer a 9 - 5 Mon - Fri services or Leek and Tamworth both of which are part-time offices.

I was NOT offered an appointment at either Wombourne or Codsall even though the website states (until the day prior to my appointment) that there were services at both locations .AT THAT TIME THERE WERE NO REGISTRAR SERVICES AT EITHER WOMBOURNE OR CODSALL.

### **MY EXPERIENCE**

We made the journey to Cannock in the snow to attend the appointment, to register my mother's death. The conditions were terrible we parked in the car park opposite the hospital and walked down the hill to the council offices. Halfway down the hill the drains were blocked leaving a lake of water approximately 12 foot long and from the gutter past the middle of the road. The swell from passing cars covered the footpath and went half way up the bank and the rest of the footpaths were covered in slush making it very hazardous walking.

At the end of the interview I asked who was responsible for the registrars service in Staffordshire. I was advised that the Operations Manager was Amy Burston and the Head of Registrations is Adam Cooper.

Amy Burston happened to be in the next office to my appointment, so I spoke to her and raised the issue of no registrar presence in our area before we left.

Amy explained that it wasn't just a case of providing a Registrar, the service needed access to a private room, a 'county printer' and their database. I raised the issue of distances, to which she was aware, however, she was unaware that the website still shows both Wombourne and Codsall as having a Registrar presence and she assured me that she would look into correcting the website.

I said I felt it was unacceptable that people in our area were expected to travel up to a 52 mile round trip, to get to our nearest office in Cannock, whilst some people in Staffordshire only had a journey of 10 miles maximum to either Cannock, Lichfield or Tamworth.

I think the answer lies in a statement that Amy made when I spoke to her **'No one has complained'**

### **LOCATION OF NEAREST OFFICES - According to Google Maps**

Cannock to Lichfield is just 10 miles (both locations have full time registrars offices (Mon - Fri 9-5)

Cannock to Tamworth is 18 miles (Tamworth office is open from Monday to Wednesday 9-5)

Lichfield to Tamworth is 7.9 miles

Newcastle to Leek is 12.4 miles

Whereas Kinver to Cannock (currently our nearest office) is a round trip of 52 miles probably 3 buses and 4 hours travel each way.

**So it begs the questions;**

**1) when the face to face services were re-instated post COVID why were the part time offices in Leek and Tamworth re-instated and working, and the Codsall and Wombourne offices were not?**

**2) why are there 3 registrar's offices all within 10 miles of each other?**

**3) when was the distribution of registrar services last reviewed?**

## **UNFAIR DISTRIBUTION OF SERVICES**

I feel that this is an unfair distribution of resources. I do not understand that some people in Staffordshire only have to travel a maximum of 10 miles to access 3 offices, whilst others have a round trip of up to 52 miles to register a death, birth or the intention of marriage.

Amy also advised me that the service had their eye on a room in Wombourne, when I tried to press her for an availability date, in the next 6 or 12 months? Her reply was I cannot give you a date but soon.

Pre pandemic both Wombourne and Codsall had a very restricted service of half a day each once per week.

Why has it taken so long to re-instate a service here, when part time service has been re-instated in both Leek and Tamworth, who by comparison have an easy journey to full time offices.

Since registering mother's death there has been a commitment to re-instate the registrar's service some time in April for only 1 day per week in Wombourne. **Currently there is NO intention to provide registrar services at Codsall.**

I can see no justification to have 3 offices ALL within 10 miles of one another whilst our people have to travel so far.

The people in Cannock, Lichfield and Tamworth currently have access to 91 hours every week.

I can also see no reason why one of the days currently being provided at Tamworth cannot be redirected to Codsall so that there is a total choice of 14 hours of service on two different days per week in our area.

## **I REQUEST YOUR FULL SUPPORT**

**I would therefore request that you contact ALL the parish/district councillors, to encourage them to individually commit their FULL support and protest to both Amy Burston and Adam Cooper to reinstate the service at BOTH Wombourne and Codsall FOR A FULL DAY IN EACH asap, thus significantly cutting our journey time.**

Cllr Mrs V Wilson reported that the Registrars office in Wombourne will be reopened one day per week, and if there is a need then further days may be discussed.

It was asked if Cllr Mrs V Wilson can when its live ask for this to be added to the weekly news round up, the Clerk will contact the complainant as a matter of courtesy..

73/23. To discuss the bus shelter at the Stewpony as it is a state of non-economical repair.

The Clerk with the agenda papers circulated photographs of the shelter on the A449 in the layby.

It was agreed by members to remove the bus shelter as soon as possible and ask the bus company to put a new pole in place when its removed. The Clerk to put out a notice on the site as to the reason why its been removed for members of the public.

74/23. To receive the minutes and any recommendations from the following Committee meetings:-

Planning and Development Committee 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023

The above meeting minutes were noted all recommendations were made to the District Council.

Leisure and Amenities Committee 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023

It was agreed to Recommend to the Parish Council to submit a grant to Fibre Heroes for a grant of £2000 towards the ongoing development costs of the website.

This was agreed.

75/23. County / District Councillor to address the Council on any matters relevant to the Parish

County Councillor Mrs V Wilson reported:-

- Potholes - there are several very deep and she thanked the residents for reporting them. Amey who do the Highways work for the County, have not been affective with the smaller pot holes. Some of the workers are now

employed back at the County to improve the smaller works that need to be undertaken. They are now working on the One Place Approach scheme, they will now look at doing clusters of pot holes in an area, rather than just one that is of the required depth to be repaired. 6500km of roads in the County, the public need to report them and the County Council do have officers that inspect areas. If the pot hole has not been repaired in the time frame, then a claim is more likely to be upheld. It was noted that there appears to be an increase in heavy goods vehicles on Kingsford Lane and the surface is in a bad state, this may be contributing to it. It was suggested that County could monitor the traffic flow. Issues with flooding is being looked at also when they look at the repairs on roads.

The Clerk will keep a list of roads that need to be looked at, members to forward the information and this will be passed to Cllr Mrs V Wilson, roads suggested already are Hyde Lane, Kingsford Lane, (these are category 3 type potholes not major ones that need to be dealt with more urgently).

- Fly tipping – could we have covert cameras? A licence is required for Trail-cam type cameras. The refuse sites are run by SCC, and they have granted land owners / business man 12 passes per year to get rid of the fly tipping.

76/23. Report of the Chairman

The Chairman reported that most of his time has been taken with discussions with traders, and the Coronation Party. Also the church wall issue.

77/23. To receive and note the report from the Clerk including Burial Ground Superintendents report.

### **Correspondence received**

Save the date – Parish Summit Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Email from Maggie Quinn relating to Youth Provision, stating that SSDC are working with SCYVS to try to

The former Clerk from Park Ridge – our sister City, has passed away – condolences have been sent.

The Princes Countryside Fund - £250,000 rural projects grants

Parking issues continue at Stone Lane

Complaint to the Chairman re the Church wall

Minutes of the traders meeting 28/2/2023

Complaint re the High Street Toilets not being able to be used by a radar key – they have also forwarded the email to SSDC as they did not like the response that I sent, which was the locks are many years old, and to change them for more modern ones was in £1000's, in Kinver the car park is free so the nominal charge of 20p is not too much for people to pay.

### **Burial Ground Superintendent.**

There have been 5 burials in the past month.

These were noted.

78/23. Reports from Members sitting on Outside Bodies for the Parish Council.

Cllr S Anderson reported that he attended a traders meeting last night, and it was a positive meeting, re future events, support for a visit Kinver website.

Cllr Mrs S Harris reported that there was a talk with National Trust for planting wildflowers and the Parish Council were mentioned.

Cllr S Charlesworth-Jones Sterrymere working group met on the 11<sup>th</sup> at the EMC and are looking at getting funding and in the Autumn to start some work. The school are involved and have also got funding.

79/23. To receive the accounts for payment since the last meeting.

The accounts for payment as set out as appendix 1 to these minutes were accepted.

80/23. Items for future Meetings

To be with the Clerk for the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

81/23. Dates of Next Meetings

Planning and Development Committee	12 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
Planning and Development Committee (if required)	3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2023
Leisure and Amenities Committee	19 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
Finance and General Purposes Committee	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
Parish Council meeting (7pm)	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2023

The Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council for the 2 councillors that are retiring Cllrs H Williams and Cllr D Light, and he thanked them for all their hard work over the many years of service. Cllr Mrs S Harris is also stepping down but she asked if there is a co-opted space on the L & A Committee she would like to take the seat. Members thanked the Chairman, and staff for all their hard work also during the year.

**Accounts for payment for April meeting 2023**

<b>Accounts for payment</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total</b>
Amazon	Vinyl Gloves	20.97
Archer Signs	New signs for Village Markers	51.54
Barclays	Monthly charges	8.00
ESPO	Cleaning supplies	109.49
Greenacre Services	Work for March. Part of Feb	1139.00
Gif Gaf	Sim for CCTV at garage and tracker	12.00
Hampshire Flags	Bunting for Coronation	333.47
HMRC	April	1334.19
IONOS	Web charges	1.20
Kinver Country Fayre	Hire of gazebos	80.00
Kinver Edge Farm Shop	Monthly opening toilets	80.00
Kinver Youth Café	Grant approved March 1st	224.00
Morrisons	Car wash and fuel for strimmer's etc	45.23
Postage for BKV Entry		7.65
Pure Shine Windows	Windows cleaned	56.00
R H Electrical Ltd	Supply time clock and fit to garage	336.00
Salaries	April	4767.42
SCC pensions	April	1833.31
Signal Traffic Management	road closure - grant funded	1986.00
Wix	Visit Kinver charge	7.20
Utility Warehouse	Kinver Edge Toilet	21.02
Utility Warehouse	95 High Street	520.44
Utility Warehouse	EV Point / water pipe heater	290.44
Utility Warehouse	Garage	228.33
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>13492.90</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Burial Fees		2290.00
Vend electric	February	152.49
Fibre Heroes	Grant for road closure	1986.00
Kinver Market	March	160.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4588.49</b>